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Patent
Attorney Docket No. 1032360-000010

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

In re Patent Application of

Atsushi Tomita

Application No.: 09/810,489

Filing Date: March 19, 2001

Title: EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, AND EQUIPMENT

Group Art Unit: 2157

Examiner: ABDULLAHI ELMI SALAD

Confirmation No.: 8259

AMENDMENT/REPLY TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Enclosed is a reply for the above-identified patent application.

☐ A Petition for Extension of Time is also enclosed.

☐ Terminal Disclaimer(s) and the ☐ \$65.00 (2814) ☐ \$130.00 (1814) fee per Disclaimer due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.20(d) are also enclosed.

☐ Also enclosed is/are _____

☐ Small entity status is hereby claimed.

☐ Applicant(s) requests continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 and enclose the ☐ \$395.00 (2801) ☐ \$790.00 (1801) fee due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e).

☐ Applicant(s) requests that any previously unentered after final amendments not be entered. Continued examination is requested based on the enclosed documents identified above.

☐ Applicant(s) previously submitted _____
_____ on _____,
for which continued examination is requested.

☐ Applicant(s) requests suspension of action by the Office until at least _____, which does not exceed three months from the filing of this RCE, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c). The required fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) is enclosed.

☐ A Request for Entry and Consideration of Submission under 37 C.F.R. § 1.129(a) (1809/2809) is also enclosed.

- ☒ No additional claim fee is required.
- ☐ An additional claim fee is required, and is calculated as shown below.

AMENDED CLAIMS					
	No. of Claims	Highest No. of Claims Previously Paid For	Extra Claims	Rate	Additional Fee
Total Claims	15	MINUS 20 =	0	x \$50.00 (1202) =	\$ 0.00
Independent Claims	6	MINUS 6 =	0	x \$200.00 (1201) =	\$ 0.00
If Amendment adds multiple dependent claims, add \$360.00 (1203)					\$ 0.00
Total Claim Amendment Fee					\$ 0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Entity Status claimed - subtract 50% of Total Claim Amendment Fee					\$ 0.00
TOTAL ADDITIONAL CLAIM FEE DUE FOR THIS AMENDMENT					\$ 0.00

- ☐ A check in the amount of _____ is enclosed for the fee due.
- ☐ Charge _____ to Deposit Account No. 02-4800.
- ☐ Charge _____ to credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.


The Director is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17, 1.20(d) and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800. This paper is submitted in duplicate.

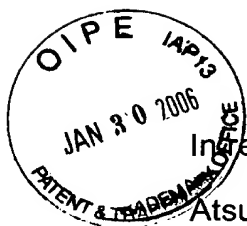
Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620

Date: January 30, 2006

By 
James A. LaBarre
Registration No. 28,632



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RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 2, 2005, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims. The continued indication at claims 5, 9-11, 13 and 15 contain allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation.

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 12 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103, on the grounds that they were considered to be unpatentable over the newly-cited Kageyama Patent Application Publication (U.S. 2002/0018681). For at least the reasons presented below, it is respectfully submitted that the Kageyama Published Application does not suggest the claimed subject matter to a person of ordinary skill in the art.

As discussed in Applicant's previous responses, the claimed invention functions to improve the efficiency of service calls on business equipment, such as photocopiers. When a trouble condition occurs in one of the items of equipment, information about that condition is transmitted to a centralized management